

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently amended) A method of assaying for potential allergenicity, ~~irritancy or inflammatory characteristics~~ of a pre-selected substance or chemical comprising:

(a) exposing a mast cell-line and/or basophil cell-line to said substance or chemical in the absence of IgE specific for said substance or chemical;

(b) detecting release of at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediator in response to said exposing; and

(c) designating the pre-selected substance or chemical as potentially allergenic based on detecting release of said at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediator.

45.-47. (Canceled)

48. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein said cell-line is a secretor variant of RBL-2H3.

49. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein said cell-line is pre-incubated with a marker.

50. (previously presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein the marker is tritiated 5-hydroxytryptamine, or histamine or β -hexoseaminidase.

51. (previously presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein the marker is ^{14}C arachadonic acid.

52. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the release of at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediator is detected using a chromogen which changes color in the presence of at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediator.

53. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the release of at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediator is detected using an antibody binding assay.

54. (Canceled)

55. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein said cell-line is transfected with a moiety capable of binding human IgE.